

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending. New claims 27-35 have been added. Claim 16 has been canceled. Thus, upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-35 will be pending. No new matter has been added.

In the Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.73(b), filed April 2, 2004, claims 9-11 inaccurately reflect the claims that issued in U.S. 6,365,574. These claims were presented with the word “degree” instead of the degree symbol (“°”). In this preliminary amendment, original claims 9-11 now accurately reflect the corresponding issued claims.

Applicants would like to bring to the attention of the examiner the following publications reciting claims of overlapping subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner consider whether there are any pending applications corresponding to any of these publications that contain interfering claims.

Publication	Inventor	Assignee	Priority Doc	Priority Date
WO 01/87912	Rodriguez	Ercros Indus.	ES P0001226	5/17/00
US 2003/165563 (WO 03/053416)	Murphy	Pfizer	US 60/343,480	12/21/01
US 2003/190365 (WO 03/053399)	Fergione	Pfizer	US 60/343,469	12/21/01
US 2003/0162730	Li	Pfizer	US 60/292,565	5/22/01
WO 03/082889	Kim	Hanmi	[None Listed]	3/21/01
US 6,703,372 (WO 01/00640)	Centellas	Biochemie	GB 9915218.3	6/29/99
US 2004/053862 (WO 02/42315)	Centellas	Biochemie	US 60/253,119	11/27/00
US 2004/014951 (WO 03/077830)	Dumic	Pliva	HR 20020231A	3/18/02
WO 04/000865	Schwarz	Sandoz	GB 0214277.6	6/20/02
WO 04/035063	Kulkarni	Sandoz	GB 0224197.4	10/17/02

Applicants would like to bring to the examiner’s attention that, upon entry of this amendment, the pending claims will contain claims that have been copied, at least in part, from US 2003/0162730 (claims 3, 30, 31, 97, 123) and US 2003/165563 (claims 3, 47, 48, 56, 83).

Support for claims 17-18 can be found, for example, at col. 2, ll. 23-31. Claims 19 and 25-30 are inherently supported. Support for claim 20 can be found, for example, at col. 3, ll. 16-21. Support for claims 21 and 23-24 can be found, for example, in the Example. Support for claim 22 can be found, for example, at col. 3, ll. 16-19. Support for claims 31-35 can be found at col. 3, ll. 16-36.


CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4200 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

No fee is believed due. However, the Office is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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